

before he could do that, he had to argue his case against being sent home under a no more combat rule. The rule was basically if a pilot was shot down, they could not let them go back, because if they were captured, they could basically tell who the people who saved them were. He pushed his way all the way up the chain of command to Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike ultimately granted Chuck's request to stay with his men.

After the war, Chuck became a test pilot. On October 14, 1947, he did what no man had done before—he broke the sound barrier in the experimental X-1 plane named the "Glamorous Glennis," after his late wife. His fabled flight ushered in a new era of aviation that prepared America for its greatest leap into space and so began the legend of Chuck Yeager.

Tom Wolfe wrote in "The Right Stuff"—a movie most of us have seen. If you haven't seen it, I suggest you do. Tom Wolfe wrote:

There were . . . other pilots with enough Pilot Ego to believe that they were actually better than this drawlin' hot dog.

Chuck had a way with words, if you ever have a chance to speak with him.

But no one could contest the fact that as of that time, the 1950s, Chuck Yeager was at the top of the pyramid, number one among all the True Brothers.

Throughout his long military career, General Yeager flew more than 10,000 hours in more than 330 models of aircraft. In 1966, he flew 127 missions in South Vietnam. He received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the special peacetime Medal of Honor. He was the youngest military pilot to be inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973.

Chuck officially retired from the Air Force in 1975 but maintained his status as a test pilot for another three decades, occasionally flying for the Air Force and NASA as a consultant.

In 1997, on the 50th anniversary of his historic flight breaking the sound barrier, he again flew past Mach One in an F-15D Eagle named the "Glamorous Glennis III." It was his last official flight with the Air Force. Of course, nothing stops Chuck Yeager. So last October on the 65th anniversary of breaking the sound barrier, he did it again, in another aircraft, at the age of 89.

Whenever he is asked about all his exploits, Chuck says he was just "doing his job," and that all he is he "owes to the Air Force." He has never ever wavered from that.

In his autobiography, he wrote:

My beginnings back in West Virginia tell who I am to this day. My accomplishments as a pilot tell more about luck, happenstance, and a person's destiny. But the guy who broke the sound barrier was the kid who swam the Mud River with a swiped watermelon, or shot the head off a squirrel before school.

Tom Wolfe believed Chuck Yeager to be the "most righteous of all possessors of the right stuff." Wolfe himself struggled to explain what he meant by "the right stuff." His best explanation was that "the right stuff" is that rare, almost indefinable mix of bravery, heroism, hard work, and focus that someone brings to "a cause that means something to a people, a nation, to humanity, to God." That describes Gen. Chuck Yeager as well as anything else I know.

He is a man of extraordinary skill and legendary courage. He has an unparalleled sense of duty and service to his country. He risked his life over and over. He is a great West Virginian. He is a great American. On his 90th birthday he is still, without a doubt, a man with "the right stuff."

I wish my dear friend the happiest of birthdays, and I urge every Senator to join me in saluting Gen. Chuck Yeager for his long and courageous service to this great country.

Thank you, General Yeager.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate—along with my distinguished friend and colleague Senator JERRY MORAN—the 150th anniversary of Kansas State University—home of the ever-optimistic Wildcats.

Since its beginning—even before Kansas joined the union as a free State—all the way up to today, Kansas State University continues to provide a first-rate education for thousands and thousands of students.

To quote the K-State alma mater lyrics: "I know a spot that I love full well." I—along with more than 200,000 alumni—am proud to call Kansas State University my alma mater, as did my father and also my son.

The year was back in 1858, when Kansas was only a territory—not even a State—that a group of local settlers founded Bluemont Central College. Then, in 1863, only 2 years into statehood, the State legislature and Governor became some of the first to accept the terms and conditions of the Morrill Act, thus creating the land grant system of colleges and universities.

On February 16, 1863, the Kansas State Agriculture College, formally

known today as Kansas State University, received a land grant charter and became the first operational land grant institution in the United States. Over the past 150 years, Kansas State University has progressed and expanded to accommodate the students and the people living in the State of Kansas—the people it has served so well.

Today, Kansas State University is comprised of nine academic colleges ranging from liberal arts to veterinary medicine. The university expanded its campus in Manhattan to include an aviation and technology school in Salina and an innovation campus in Olathe, KS. Also, Kansas State University Research and Extension has a presence in every county in Kansas—all 105. These offices are a source of vital information to every farmer and rancher in our State. We are staying true to our land grant roots.

Back in 1863, Kansas State University's first enrollment totaled a mere 14 students. This school year Kansas State University reached a record enrollment of more than 24,000 students. These students hail from all 50 States and over 90 countries. Out of this diverse population, the university has produced industry leaders, heads of States, humanitarians, generals, gifted scientists, and a few public servants.

Kansas State University has received national recognition for the exceptional education it provides students year after year. Kansas State continues to have college programs ranked the best in the Nation. The university has been recognized as a leader among public universities in total number of Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Udall, and Goldwater Scholars.

I cannot talk about my alma mater without mentioning Kansas State University's athletic program, especially over the recent years. Since its first football game way back in 1883, dedicated fans have been coming to the sports arenas to support our athletes and our team. This intercollegiate athletic program has complemented the education provided by the university and has been a great source of purple pride for both alumni and Kansas.

As Kansas State University looks toward the future, it sets new goals for the institution and for its students. Launched by president Kirk Schulz in 2010, K-State 2025, the university's strategic plan, strives to make Kansas State University a top 50 public research institution within 15 years. Thanks to the work that has been done throughout the past 150 years and the research that continues, I have no doubt Kansas State University is on track to achieve this very important goal.

Throughout this week and weekend, students, staff, alumni, and friends of the university will gather in Manhattan, KS—the "little apple"—to celebrate the history of Kansas State University.

On behalf of the Senate, it is my honor to congratulate Kansas State

University on its accomplishments over the past 150 years. As the alma mater song says, it is truly "a spot that I love full well." Every man a Wildcat.

I yield to my distinguished friend and colleague, Senator MORAN.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas.

There is no K State alumni, no individual from our home State who bleeds the color purple more fervently than the senior Senator from Kansas. It is an honor to join him here today to recognize the significant accomplishments on the 150th anniversary of the first land grant university college in the Nation.

Senator ROBERTS comes to the Kansas State University through his family—his father as well as his son.

I have become acquainted with Kansas State University as a citizen of our State in which we see each and every day the benefits that accrue to the citizens of our State because of the academic research, the education, the extension of education across our State that benefits each and every citizen. So it is with great pleasure that we honor the accomplishments today of this university. It has had tremendous leadership.

In my early days in Congress, President Wefald in many ways created a great opportunity for Kansas State University to excel, to become something different than it had been, to move forward into the future. Now, under the leadership of president Kirk Schulz, his leadership only accelerates the opportunity for Kansas State University to provide new and beneficial services, education, and benefits to the people of our State, to our country, and to students around the globe.

Kansas State University is known for its agricultural background, for its support for that significant industry in our State—farmers and ranchers look to Kansas State University for education and for technical support, and we know of their importance in that No. 1 industry in our State—but, as Senator ROBERTS said, engineering and aerospace; now a campus at Salina, KS, dealing with aviation and avionics, with UAVs moving into the future; a campus in Johnson County, the suburbs of Kansas City, in which additional research in bioscience is being accelerated. So in each and every circumstance, Kansas State University contributes to the economy and well-being of our State and our country.

As a parent, I know Kansas State University. Both our daughters attended Kansas State University, and one remains a student there. I remember the first day I wandered with my 17-, 18-year-old daughter onto campus for a campus tour, and at the end of the day—I will admit we had visited other universities as well, but at the end of the day Kelsey said: Dad, there is no place more welcoming, no place more like home, no place where I feel like a part of a family more than Kansas State University.

That is something I think K State exhibits so well and causes Kansas to be so proud of the Wildcat tradition, which is a sense of family; that we are in it together and people are friends. It is a very comfortable and enjoyable learning environment for students, and we have seen it in our family.

Our youngest daughter followed her older sister to Kansas State University and is now a beginning student at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Another area in which Kansas State University is highly regarded is the study of animal science. K State in Manhattan, KS, is the western border of the animal science corridor, the eastern border being that place that all Kansans, regardless of alma mater, despise—the University of Missouri. So from west to east, the animal science corridor is bounded by the research scientists and educators and the schools that increase the likelihood that Americans are going to have nutrition, be well fed, and have a safe and abundant food supply.

It is an honor to be here to pay tribute to the many leaders at Kansas State University, those who have come before and those who will follow President Wefald and President Schulz to make sure Kansas State University remains that place of higher education and learning in our State but also to make certain Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, is always that place called home where students from across our State and around the globe feel as though they have found family and a place to learn to improve their lives and to make certain they contribute to the betterment of our world.

It is an honor to be here with one of the most distinguished alumni of Kansas State University, my colleague and friend Senator ROBERTS, to wish Kansas State University many more years of success in providing education to our students and moving our State forward in ways that will benefit not only this generation but those that follow us.

So congratulations, Kansas State University, and happy 150th birthday.

Mr. President, I yield back to the Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank my dear friend and colleague more especially for highlighting what K State is all about, and that is family. If one chooses to attend Kansas State, as many do—many come from small town America, and many come from big cities, but I think they are all struck by the family atmosphere.

The thing I think is rather remarkable, even in having the privilege of talking to some of K State's football team and some of the athletes, both basketball and football—all sports at K State—I am always able to tell the thousands and thousands of fans from K State who know their history, know where they are coming from, and always support them regardless of the outcome. So K State is a family.

K State's legendary coach Bill Snyder, who has achieved miracles on the

football field with team after team, always stresses family and togetherness and the proper role of athletics in education.

My son David went to K State, and he fell in love with K State. He didn't have much of a choice as far as I was concerned, but he did really enjoy himself at K State. Basically, I am struck by the fact that many of his friends who are graduates—when that day comes when you graduate or when you leave K State, those generations really stick together, and they are friends for life. It is in that vein that I think the Senator's remarks are certainly right on target.

Mr. MORAN. If the Senator would yield.

Mr. ROBERTS. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Senator ROBERTS raises something that I wish to make clear, which is that Kansas State University has been so kind and so beneficial to our two daughters. While they found it to be home and like family, they have excelled and learned, advanced their lives both personally and professionally in ways that are so important to us as parents. We have nothing but commendation to offer to Kansas State University for the kindness and opportunities they have created for our own daughters as they pursue their goals in life.

So it is a very personal opportunity for me to express this gratitude to Kansas State University for making it so good for the things a mom and dad care so much about. For our two daughters Kelsey and Alex, K State is an important component of their lives, and we are so appreciative of the role that university has played in educating our children.

I yield back to the Senator from Kansas.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, we have a double privilege here today in that we obviously are celebrating Kansas State University being 150, representing 150 years of outstanding academic service to our people, but also Emporia State University is 150 years old at the same time—a rather remarkable achievement. I know we would like to congratulate Emporia State on its 150th anniversary.

Emporia State University is in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas, and it is also very dear to my family. My mother attended Emporia State and studied education. She went on to become a teacher. Emporia State is a teacher's university, second to none. But she, in her day and time, spent a lot of time educating Kansas children up in Atchison, KS, and was very much like the other proud and accomplished alumni from Emporia State.

If a person wants to know about education, all they would have to do—as